

WHAT WE CLAIM IS

1. A clamping device for clamping work pieces, comprising:

- a box-shaped body having a longitudinal axis;

5 - a clamping member movably supported by the box-shaped body between a first or forward, and a second or rearward operative positions corresponding respectively to an open and a clamped condition of the device;

10 - a manually operable control lever pivotally supported by the box-shaped body; and

- connecting means for operative connection between the clamping member and the control lever said connecting means comprising:

15 - a guide element movable parallelly to the longitudinal axis of the body;

- a first toggle-lever system between the clamping member and the control lever;

20 - a second toggle-lever system between the guide element and the control lever, said second toggle-lever system comprising first and second link members hingedly connected each others, to the guide member and to the control lever; and

25 - in that said first and second toggle-lever system are constructed and arranged to operate in correlation with each other, in such a way that the

hinge axes of the link members of the second toggle-lever system, in a forward position of the clamping member are arranged on different reference lines forming an angle between each others; and

5 - stop means for stopping the second toggle-lever system in the forward position of the clamping member of the clamping device.

2. A clamping device for holding and centring work pieces, the device comprising:

10 - a box-shaped body having a longitudinal axis;  
- a retaining and centring member parallelly arranged to the axis of the body, said centring member being movable supported between a first or backward position and a second or forward position with respect 15 to the box-shaped body of the device,

comprising:

- a manually operable control lever being pivotally supported by the box-shaped body;

20 - a guide element for the centring member; and  
- connecting means between the guide element and the control lever, said connecting means comprising a toggle-lever system having link members hingedly connected to the guide member and the control lever, the hinge axis of the link members being arranged on 25 different reference lines forming an angle between each

others; and

stop means being provided for stopping the toggle-lever system in the forward position of the centring member of the device.

5       3. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the hinge points of said first and second toggle-lever systems for connection to the guide element, are spaced apart in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the box-shaped body.

10      4. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the guide element is operatively connected to a linear actuator.

15      5. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the link connected to the control lever of the second toggle-lever system has a length greater than the link connected to the guide element of the clamping device.

20      6. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the clamping member is in the form of a rotatingly supported clamping arm.

25      7. A clamping device according to claim 1, wherein the clamping member is in the form of a hook-shaped member operatively connected to the guide element by said first toggle-lever system and an articulated quadrilateral system.